This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ZAGREB 000523

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/2008

TAGS: PREL HR AL MK HR AL MK IZ IZPREL NATO NATO SUBJECT: "ADRIATIC 3" FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, DUBROVNIK, MARCH 7: SUPPORTIVE STATEMENT ON IRAQ

REF: A. NARDI/ROSSIN EMAIL 3/5 ¶B. ROSSIN/NARDI TELCON 3/7

CLASSIFIED BY: (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMB. LAWRENCE ROSSIN, REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D)

11. (C) SUMMARY: THE ALBANIAN, CROATIAN AND MACEDONIAN FOREIGN CONFIDENTIAL

- PAGE 02 ZAGREB 00523 01 OF 02 111302Z MINISTERS MET BRIEFLY IN DUBROVNIK MARCH 7 TO CONFIRM THE "ADRIATIC CHARTER" DRAFT TEXT (ALREADY WITH DEPARTMENT), PAGE 02 ISSUE A DECLARATION AND GIVE THE INITIATIVE HIGHER PUBLIC PROFILE. AMBASSADOR ROSSIN ATTENDED FOR THE USG AT FM PICULA'S INVITATION AND PARTICIPATED IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE AFTERWARD. TEXT OF MINISTERS' DECLARATION, WITH REASONABLY FIRM IRAQ LANGUAGE, AT PARA 9 (FAXED TO EUR/SCE). WE CREDIT ALBANIAN FM META FOR ENSURING THE IRAQ LANGUAGE WAS INCLUDED IN THE FINAL TEXT. ALTHOUGH THE CROATIANS POSE LESS RESISTANCE THAN AT PREVIOUS A3 MEETINGS, AMBASSADOR OVERHEARD THE CROATIAN LEAD OFFICIALS TRYING TO MINIMIZE IT.
- IN THE CONFERENCE AND AT THE PRESS EVENT, ALL THREE MINISTERS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF, AND THEIR GRATITUDE FOR, USG "PARTNERSHIP" IN ADVANCING THEIR NATO ASPIRATIONS, AND UNDERSCORED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ADRIATIC CHARTER AS PROOF POSITIVE OF OUR COMMITMENT. ALL LOOKED FORWARD TO SIGNING WITH SECRETARY POWELL IN WASHINGTON. PER REF A, AMBASSADOR TOLD THE MINISTERS THAT A SIGNING CEREMONY IN MARCH WAS UNLIKELY AND NOTED THAT THE CHARTER TEXT WAS UNDER REVIEW IN WASHINGTON, WITH SOME WORDING CHANGES POSSIBLE SOON. THE MINISTERS UNDERSTOOD THAT MARCH WAS HARD TO PROGRAM BUT URGED THAT SIGNING NOT BE ALLOWED TO SLIP TOO LONG. PER REF B, DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED CHANGES IN CHARTER WORDING SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE THREE WASHINGTON AMBASSADORS FOR A3 CONSIDERATION. END SUMMARY.
- 13. (C) THE FOREIGN MINISTERS A3 MEETING MARCH 7 IN DUBROVNIK LASTED 45 MINUTES, WITH AMBASSADOR ROSSIN INVITED TO JOIN IN ALL BUT THE FIRST TEN MINUTES. DISCUSSION DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S PRESENCE WAS RATHER PERFUNCTORY (THE DECLARATION CONFIDENTIAL
- PAGE 03 ZAGREB 00523 01 OF 02 111302Z AND DRAFT CHARTER HAVING BEEN COMPLETED BEFOREHAND) WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MINOR TENSION WHEN ALBANIAN FM META COMPLAINED TO CROATIAN FM PICULA ABOUT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON ALBANIANS COMING TO CROATIA. PICULA DWELT ON CROATIA'S NATO AND EU ASPIRATIONS AND PROGRESS AND STRESSED ITS INTEREST IN REGIONAL COOPERATION. MACEDONIAN FM MITREVA EMPHASIZED PRACTICAL COOPERATION, MENTIONED IN THE ADRIATIC CHARTER, ON ISSUES SUCH AS BORDER SECURITY, TRAFFICKING AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION. SHE TOUTED THE MAY BORDER CONFERENCE IN OHRID (SKOPJE 313).
- 14. (C) META SIMILARLY STRESSED ALBANIA'S INTEREST IN REGIONAL COOPERATION BUT ALSO NOTED THE NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SO THESE COUNTRIES COULD ATTAIN NATO AND EU ASSISTANCE SO THESE COUNTRIES COULD ATTAIN NATO AND EU
 STANDARDS IN A REASONABLE TIME. META EMPHASIZED AT LENGTH
 ALBANIAN SOLIDARITY WITH THE U.S. ON IRAQ, COMPARING SADDAM'S
 REGIME WITH THE SOCIALIST ISOLATION HIS COUNTRY SUFFERED FOR
 50 YEARS. ALL THREE MINISTERS WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO
 UNDERSCORE THEIR APPRECIATION FOR USG SUPPORT, NOT ONLY ON
 THE ADRIATIC CHARTER, THE OPEN DOOR AND THEIR NATO
 CANDIDACIES, BUT ALSO ON THE FULL RANGE OF THEIR ASPIRATIONS AND CHALLENGES.
- (C) AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED IN HIS TURN U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE OPEN DOOR AND TO ASSIST THE THREE COUNTRIES IN MAKING THEIR NATO ASPIRATIONS REAL THROUGH THEIR MAP PROGRAMS. WHILE EACH COUNTRY FACED DIFFERENT DEFENSE REFORMS,
 INTEROPERABILITY AND CIVIL SOCIETY CHALLENGES TO QUALIFY FOR INVITATIONS, NATO WAS ALL ABOUT COLLABORATION, AND THEREFORE WE APPLAUDED THEIR INITIATIVE IN TEAMING TOGETHER THROUGH THIS ADRIATIC PROCESS, NOT JUST WITH HORTATORY LANGUAGE BUT CONFIDENTIAL
- ZAGREB 00523 01 OF 02 111302Z WITH CONCRETE PLANS. AMBASSADOR TOLD THE MINISTERS THAT THE DRAFT CHARTER TEXT WAS BEING REVIEWED IN WASHINGTON AND WE APPLAUDED ITS OVERALL TONE AND PROVISIONS; WE EXPECTED TO PROPOSE SOME MINOR WORDING CHANGES IN DUE COURSE. ALTHOUGH WE WERE NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM A WASHINGTON SIGNING DATE YET AND MARCH LOOKED UNLIKELY, WE WOULD BE IN TOUCH SOON AND REMAINED COMMITTED TO AN EARLY SIGNING CEREMONY.

- 16. (C) FINALLY, WHILE NOTING THAT THE USG WOULD WELCOME THE ADRIATIC INITIATIVE AND DUBROVNIK DECLARATION AS A WHOLE, WE ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED THE DECLARATION'S REITERATION OF IRAQ'S OBLIGATION TO COMPLY WITH UNSCR 1441 "OR FACE THE CONSEQUENCES." SUCH SOLIDARITY WAS ESSENTIAL TO MAXIMIZE PRESSURE ON SADDAM TO COMPLY AND AVOID THE NEED FOR USE OF FORCE TO DISARM IRAO.
- 17. (C) THE MINISTERS UNDERSTOOD THE UNCERTAINTY IN SCHEDULING THE WASHINGTON SIGNING CEREMONY BUT URGED THAT IT NOT BE DELAYED TOO LONG. MACEDONIAN FM MITREVA WAS STRONGEST ON THIS POINT; SHE INDICATED SHE HAD HEARD THAT DELAY UNTIL MAY WAS BEING CONSIDERED AND SAID THAT WOULD DISSIPATE THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE THREE. AMBASSADOR ASSURED HER WE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SCHEDULE THE SIGNING CEREMONY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND DISCOUNTED WHAT SHE HAD HEARD.

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INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AID-00 CIAE-00 INL-00 DODE-00 PERC-00 SRPP-00 DS-00 FBIE-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 LAB-01 L-00 VCE-00 AC-01 NEA-00 DCP-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00 ACE-00 P-00 SCT-00 SP-00 IRM-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 R-00 EPAE-00 SD-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-01 G-00 SSR-00 NFAT-00 SAS-00 SWCI-00 /006W

R 111250Z MAR 03 FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9652 INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 ZAGREB 000523

SIPDIS

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- 18. (C) IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE, EACH OF THE MINISTERS AND THE AMBASSADOR ECHOED THEMES FROM THE MINISTERIAL; ALL THE MINISTERS THANKED THE USG PUBLICLY FOR ITS "PARTHERSHIP" IN THE A3 ENTERPRISE. AS IN PRIVATE, FM META WAS STRONGEST ON IRAQ. IN TYPICAL CROATIAN FASHION, ONLY ONE JOURNALIST ASKED A QUESTION, WHICH PICULA HANDLED WELL. IN COMMENTS AFTERWARD TO CROATIAN JOURNALISTS, PICULA SPUN THE DECLARATION TO CONFIDENTIAL
- PAGE 02 ZAGREB 00523 02 OF 02 111303Z ASSURE THE HOME AUDIENCE THAT WHILE SADDAM HAD TO COMPLY, THE GOC REMAINED FOCUSED ON A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE IRAQ CRISIS. (TYPICALLY, PICULA ENSURED THAT THE GOC WAS FOLLOWING RATHER THAN LEADING PUBLIC OPINION ON IRAQ.)

19. (U) TEXT OF DECLARATION:

"DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA, THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA"

DUBROVNIK, MARCH 7, 2004

WE, THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA, THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, AND THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA MET TODAY IN DUBROVNIK TO REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVE FULL MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. IN THAT REGARD, WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE SIGNING OF THE CHARTER OF PARTNERSHIP AMONG THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND OUR THREE COUNTRIES.

WE SHARE A COMMON VISION OF A FULLY INTEGRATED EUROPE. WE AFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO THE RULE OF LAW, RESPECT OF HUMAN AND MINORITY RIGHTS AND THE FREE MARKET. WE ALSO UNDERSCORE OUR FULL COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND RESPECTIVE OSCE DOCUMENTS.

WE WARMLY WELCOME THE DECISION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL IN PRAGUE IN NOVEMBER 2002 TO INVITE SEVEN EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES, OUR VILNIUS GROUP PARTNERS, TO BEG ACCESSION TALKS WITH NATO. WE ALSO WELCOME NATO, S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THESE INVITEES WILL NOT BE THE LAST AND THAT IT WILL CONTINUE CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ZAGREB 00523 02 OF 02 111303Z WITH &OPEN DOOR8 POLICY IN ORDER TO FULLY INTEGRATE ALBANIA, CROATIA AND MACEDONIA INTO THE EUROPEAN AND TRANSATLANTIC POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SECURITY AND DEFENSE INSTITUTIONS.

WE DECLARE OUR COMMITMENT TO THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF MAP AND OUR RESPECTIVE ANP,S IN ORDER TO BETTER PREPARE
OURSELVES FOR FULL NATO MEMBERSHIP. FURTHERMORE, WE SHALL INTENSIFY OUR ACTIVITIES FOR INCREASING OUR CAPABILITIES TO MEET NEW SECURITY CHALLENGES AND FOR MODERNIZING OUR ARMED FORCES.

WE RECONFIRM OUR COUNTRIES, COMMITMENT TO TAKE ACTIVE PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL COALITION AGAINST TERRORISM AND OUR SUPPORT OF ALL SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO THE DESTRUCTION, CONTROL AND NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CALL UPON IRAQ TO COMPLY FULLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1441, OR FACE THE CONSEQUENCES.

FOLLOWING THE COMMITMENTS EXPRESSED BY OUR PRESIDENTS AT THE TIRANA SUMMIT ON FEBRUARY 12, WE AGREE TO INTENSIFY OUR REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN ORDER TO ENHANCE PEACE AND STABILITY IN EUROPE AND WILL USE ALREADY EXISTING BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL MECHANISMS. WE REAFFIRM OUR DETERMINATION TO FURTHER ENHANCE BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OURSELVES AND BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO AND WITH OTHER NEIGHBORS.

END TEXT.

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